

CLYDESIDE



Red Fox

HUNT

SABOTEURS

Clydeside

SAVING THE FOX - ACTION AGAINST BLOODSPORTS



Clydeside Hunt Saboteurs



"NEWSPAPER REPORT 1986-87"

HUNT

SABOTEURS

Introduction - Clydeside Hunt Saboteurs have been operative in Renfrewshire since 1981. Our group is affiliated to the national Hunt Saboteurs Association and we engage in direct, but peaceful, action to save the lives of hunted animals in Renfrewshire - many people do not realise how much hunting goes on in the countryside around Glasgow and Paisley. The Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire Foxhunt is based in the village of Houston, near Paisley and they hunt from September to March every Saturday and Tuesday.



Hunt Saboteurs fight for wildlife in the very fields where it is threatened, harassed and mutilated by unimaginative human beings in the name of sport. Our objective is to make bloodsports unworkable, impractical and obsolete through a campaign of NON-VIOLENT DIRECT ACTION. Our short term aim in our area is to

save as many animals from the hunt as possible, whilst drawing people's attention to the sadistic practice of foxhunting and, in the longer term, to hasten the day when bloodsports are abolished by law: until then, as Ian Noble states in "Scots Magazine", 'The foxhunt Saboteurs decided that direct intervention was the only effective way to even up the odds a little.'

Foxhunting is a cruel and unnecessary practice which has no place in a genuinely civilised society. Scientific and ecological research has proved conclusively that foxes are NOT a pest, their species does NOT require any form of human control and, contrary to myths perpetuated by hunters (to justify their sordid 'sport') foxes do infinitely more GOOD than harm in our countryside.

This however is not a report on the arguments against foxhunting, but rather, on the actions of Clydeside Hunt Saboteurs over a full hunting season and an analysis of our effect.....

CUBHUNTING - It is NOT natural for hounds to hunt foxes; they must be trained to do this - the activity is known as 'cubbing', which basically means the hunt killing as many young foxes as possible to ensure the hounds acquire a taste for blood.



In Renfrewshire, cubhunting commences in September and lasts until the end of October. This season Clydeside Hunt Saboteurs attended all the hunt's Saturday meets and were so successful that, not only were no young foxes killed, but the Lanarkshire/

The education of a foxhound

Sir, — In about two months' time foxhunting will be rearing its bloody head up again in the Scottish countryside as well as most other parts of Britain. The opening hunt will start on November 1 but two months before that, the huntsman must train his young hounds in the so-called art of hunting and killing foxes. The best way of doing this is by letting them taste blood. So before the opening hunt, hounds are taken out cub-hunting. This is the side the hunting fraternity do not want the public to see or hear about.

Cubbing is an established practice in foxhunting. It involves the hunt taking young hounds to a small wood where there is known to be a litter of fox cubs. Firstly, hunt supporters will position themselves around the wood. The huntsman and staff then take the young hounds inside the surrounded wood. As the hunt staff and hounds make their way through the wood, the young, inexperienced cubs will run away from their mother. If a cub is seen leaving the wood it will be frightened back in by the mounted hunt supporters, who will be shouting and

slapping their saddles with their crops. The frightened cub will then be scared back into the very jaws of the hounds.

It is a terrible scene. Young hounds, lacking experience of the older hounds, are not quite sure how to deal with the cubs. They bite the cubs and are usually bitten back. But the older hounds show them how to kill the cubs, both treating them as something to kill and something to play with. With a sordid scuffle, fur, flesh, and blood fly in all directions.

This is the young hound's education. It has been going on for hundreds of years and is still happening. It is now 1983. How much longer can a civilised community tolerate such behaviour from the selfish minority intent on chasing wild animals to death? It is morally unacceptable and I, with many other concerned people, will be out protesting and trying to save the helpless and defenceless animals from the hands of the hunt.

Martin Benson,
Clydeside Hunt Saboteurs.
44 Belsyde Avenue, Glasgow.

and Renfrewshire's (L & R) 'cubbing' degenerated into a series of miniature hunts making for very poor training for young foxhounds. Over these two months hunt officials and supporters continuously threatened Saboteurs with violence. Several officials, including Secret Hunt staff, huntsman and terriermen have been convicted for assault on Saboteurs and once again their threats became reality with the R

official hunt of the season.

NOVEMBER — Traditionally, the 1st of November heralds the start of the foxhunting season proper. The L & R hunt met at Houston, and were greeted by 130 anti-hunt demonstrators, most of whom then encircled the area and engaged in peaceful action to save any hunted foxes.



The hunt left Houston just before noon and after about 1½ hours, chased a fox to its earth. It was at this point that the hunt threats turned to serious violence. To quote from Ian once again, 'The spade brigade had already begun to dig the fox out when we all arrived' — Saboteurs tried to place themselves between the fox and its would-be killers — 'Anyone who attempted to sit down over the hole was dragged away by the terriermen. The Hunt Saboteurs response, as usual, was to place even more people around the hole in a bid to stop them from digging any further, whilst another Saboteur attempted to unblock another exit from which the fox could bolt to freedom. But this was the first hunt of the season, they had to get a fox. How could they let such a glorious day of pageantry end without at least one kill? That would be too embarrassing, they had to dig this fox out. It might be their only chance. The terriermen were desperate, and desperate men can be dangerous. They tried, in vain, to scare the Saboteurs away with verbal abuse. In desperation and frustration

at their inability to kill this fox, using branches and spades they began to lash out at their opponents.

HUNT THUG BROUGHT TO BOOK



HUNT VIOLENCE IN SCOTLAND: A supporter of the Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire FH wades in with a stick (left). The seated saboteur (right) had his cheekbone smashed by John Waters' spade.

By the time Police arrived, two Saboteurs, both of whom were out on their very first hunt, were lying virtually motionless on the ground. One had been severely bruised, the other, hit in the face with a spade and concussed' - Both Saboteurs had to be taken to hospital by ambulance. The Saboteur who had been assaulted with the spade had to undergo emergency surgery to rebuild a multi-fractured cheekbone. Due to brave and determined intervention by Saboteurs THIS FOX ESCAPED THE BLOODLUST OF THE HUNT - 'The hunt continued until about half past two when they gave up in despair. They had lost their hounds and had not killed one fox. We had won the day but at what cost to us? Our ideal of nonviolent opposition had stood tall, but two of our friends had fallen.....The truth behind the pageantry and red coats is that foxhunting is a very cruel and dangerous 'sport' that relies upon a 'bloodlust'. They revel in death and violence. Surely it must be time for them to abandon the killing fields. Parliament could ban bloodsports. It is up to you, isn't it? The Hunt Saboteurs are trying.' Thankfully both Ian and Paul recovered fully; indeed a dazed but very determined Ian was back out to Sabotage the Following Saturday's hunt. We had to wait until 23rd Jun '87 for the consequent Sherriff Court appearance of John Waters, the hunt terrierman. Despite boasting to other hunters, about his part in the vicious assault, Waters, who was actually disowned by the hunt Secretary, Grant Forrest (who also has a criminal record for assault on a sixteen year old female Saboteur) pled 'Not Guilty'. The Sherriff saw through the hunt's tissue of lies and, after an emotive plea by his/

Solicitor against a custodial sentence, he received a fine of £300. It will be interesting to see what effect (if any) this most recent fine and conviction has on the violent behaviour of the hunt officials and supporters.

Meanwhile, back to the hunt.....the following Saturday, November 8th, saw another 130 protestors out against the hunt: The first time over 100 Saboteurs have attended two consecutive hunts, confirming that violence never works. In torrential rain, Saboteurs stuck 'doggedly' with hounds throughout the day ensuring another 'bl' for the hunt - NO KILLS. Saboteurs encouraged by the success of their actions, and resolved to direct their anger about the injuries to Ian and Paul in a positive way, now started to organise for the capability of sabotaging both Tuesday and Saturday meets of the L & R. ie. each and every hunt. That Tuesday 11th November, three carloads of activists arrived at St. Brydes, near Howwood. Supporters of the hunt had already assembled but officials decided to cancel, ostensibly due to 'bad weather'. Given the torrential rain just three days before, when the L & R continued to hunt, Saboteurs claimed the credit for this cancellation.

In fact, out of a total of nine hunt meets during November, Clydeside HSA attended s. The hunt's violence certainly had an effect which was not intended! Numbers of activists Saboteurs evened out to between 40 and 80 on each Saturday for the remainder of the year. DOUBLE THAT OF THE PREVIOUS SEASONS.

On November 15th, the hunt actually chased FOUR foxes from one wood. Sabs moved quickly into action and, after pulling hounds away from redcoats with horn and voice calls, all the foxes escaped, much to the frustration of the hunt. Later that same day after the L & R huntsman had gathered his hounds together once again, the hunt crossed through Gleniffer Braes Country Park, near Paisley. A few weeks afterwards it was discovered that a member of the public had made a written complaint about this incident to local Council officials. To their credit, Renfrew District Council, who in 1980 took a policy decision to ban the hunt from their land, took action via their Legal Section, informing the hunt, in no uncertain terms that their trespassing was not to be tolerated. At the end of the season Clydeside HSA representatives were invited to a meeting with R.D.C., where Councillors and Legal Officials re-newed their commitment against hunting and provided up-dated maps showing newly acquired land now under Council control - another HUNT FREE ZONE.

On 29th November, the hunt met at Gateside near Beith. Unfortunately, the HESSILHEAD WILDLIFE RESCUE CENTRE is situated directly in the hunt's usual path. After continuous harassment by the hunt over the last few years, Gay and Andy Christie, who run the centre for the rehabilitation of injured wild animals, finally threatened legal action against the hunt. Significantly this action ensured the hunt gave Hossilhead a wide berth. Throughout the day Saboteurs successfully intervened on behalf of the fox - NO KILLS. It should be noted that landowners and farmers are turning increasingly against the hunt in Renfrewshire, the proprietors of Hall Farm near Howwood, for instance, are considering similar legal action, if the hunt continue to ignore repeated warnings. This concern stems from the fact that, during the previous season 1985-86, the L & R hunt dug out and killed a fox on this land despite being asked to leave by

The article below is conceived and written by Derek Parker, a regular contributor to the local Paisley Daily Express - he also follows the hunt at EVERY meet: you can decide on the extent of Mr. Parker's journalistic objectivity.....

By DEREK PARKER

This observation recorded in the country magazine, 'The Field,' on November 7, 1934, is as appropriate today as it was half a century ago — as recent events in the Renfrewshire countryside have

people unaware of the facts or unacquainted with country life might be inclined to think the conflict was simply between those who "kill for fun" and peaceful protesters and idealists out to protect fawns — a scenario deliberately cultivated by opponents of hunting in their regular use of emotive language, such as "bloodsports, barbaric, and hunt thugs" in their efforts to gain public sympathy for their cause.

concerned

The Labour Party, for example, has received thousands of pounds from the League Against Cruel Sports in further its election campaigns — and in its election manifesto the Labour Party has vowed to abolish hunting with hounds while, at the same time, suggesting a

Quite clearly the opposition to hunting arises from the fact that it is erroneously reputed to be an aristocratic sport, while angling is regarded as a working-man's pastime.

In Rentonshire, the slogans, badges, car-stickers, CND labels, and punk rocker mode of dress of anti-hunt demonstrators reveal their leftward tendencies, indicating that their persistence at meets owes much to their desire to strike a blow against what they perceive to be "the system" and "the establishment."

Threatened

Most of the demonstrators are impressionable young people recruited at universities such as Glasgow and Strathclyde and Paisley College of Technology by older, dedicated anti-hunt activists, who pick them up in cars and minibuses in the city and ferry them out to the Renfrewshire countryside.

While the 'foot-sloggers' are getting cold, tired, and wet, their leaders —

usually radical, middle-class adults, drive around in cars, master-minding the campaign of action and send letters to newspapers, alleging brutality by hunt followers towards "peaceful protestors" or criticising the police for arresting anti-hunt demonstrators who rampage across fields and trample the livestock.

which people living in towns slowly poison to death without any qualms and with no opposition from the protest lobby.

Pursued

The first is that in hunting areas the presence of foxes is actively encouraged by the planting and cultivation of woods, coverts, and thickets where the animals can live and breed — close seasons when

It is no coincidence that Britain, with the greatest number of foxhound packs in Europe, has easily the highest fox population.

neighbourhood, which is regularly hunted by the local foxhounds. In the hills above Lechwinnoch, inaccessible to the hounds, there are virtually no foxes because they have been wiped out to safeguard other interests such as sheep-farming and the preservation of grouse and pheasants.

The second reason for the high number of foxes in hunting areas is that it is the fittest and strongest that survive – thus reducing the risk of disease such as mange, which is spread by weaker specimens and also curtailing the amount of vulpine competition for food, so ensur-

Declined

Declined

It is absurd, therefore, for anyone to think that if hunting would be better off or what they would spend the remainder of their days wandering idyllically through the countryside.

The countryside would be adversely affected, too — the woods the coverts where foxes are found would probably be com-

down for farming and forestry if hunting was banned, as would be the hedgerows which are maintained for horses to jump over during a chase. This would cause mass destruction of habitats for countless birds, animals, wild flowers, butterflies, and other insects.

would be widespread unemployment among country people who earn their livelihood by working in hunt kennels or as grooms in riding establishments — not to mention the loss of jobs in saddlery shops and factories as well as places which manufacture equestrian dress.

There are, of course, many people who would argue that jobs which depend on the killing of wild creatures are not worth preserving. However, one would expect in the interests of consistency, those subscribing to this view would also oppose the United Kingdom motor car industry because each year between 20

The truth is that most people who ride to hounds do so not to see hares killed but

Deprived

And those who follow on foot do so to test their tracking and fieldcraft skills, as well as to keep fit by covering several miles of varied terrain in a day — pleasures which they, too, will be deprived of whether the hounds follow real or

Today, half a century after the words at the beginning of this article were written, hunting is still a vocation to many people — particularly those who live in towns and cities.

It is a way of life which they will not give up easily — especially as those who want to abolish it know little or nothing about the Herefordshire countryside and its wildlife and whose opposition to hunting is based primarily on political and sociological motives rather than on a genuine concern for the countryside.



THE HUNT... It's not just a "kill for fun" says Derek Parker.

Biased Parker follows the hunt on foot!

CONCERNING the recent article on fox hunting by Derek Parker, I would like to point out that the article is very biased as this Mr Parker is an ardent bush regular and regular sportsman. He follows the hunt on foot. He writes about the tradition of fox hunting which has been going on in Herefordshire for more than 20 years. That does not justify the so-called sport. Many of the sportsmen are big game hunters and are interested in the animal and legal such as slaves, bear hunting, etc. Thankful they are now illegal.

Many people that live in the country are opposed to hunting. I myself am a resident of Houston and I am

country" people supporting the hunt and "town" people opposing it because they are unqualified with the way of country life.

Mr. Parker writes about hunt supporters as "justifiably being called names such as thugs. Who would he rather call a man who strikes a young boy on the face with a spade and fractures his jaw and cheekbone in several places?"

This incident happened on the first day of the hunt when a young boy bravely

The hunting fraternity has certainly changed their argument about fox hunting. They said in the past that fox hunting was a controlled

The only thing that I hunting does is to give pleasure to a thoughtless cruel minority.

Carol Livingston
Cranshaw
Houston



**Hunt a
'drag'
and we'll
stop!**

"CHARLIE Tup." It appears, lives in a world imaginary as his / name!

I will not make mistakes, however, of generalists about the student which is obviously subjudice as I understand supporter of the hunt been charged with assault and is now on the following an alleged as a group of his subjudice. We WILL discuss details AFTER the throbbing trial.

Both Charlie's letter Mr Parker's recent re-regurgitated the old rubbish about the motives of subjudice. Of course we the vanguard of the C

Hunt Saboteurs will be about this "revolution" saving the foxes, tonds the road, seals, birds prey, grouse, pheasant mink, otters, bats hedgehogs. I am surprised the Kremlin has not rewarded us already!

prepared to hunt a
(false scent where no one
died) and Mr Parker who
have us believe
Clydeside Hunt Saboteurs
would still protest.

THIS IS UTTER R
BISH.

**Time to
stop this
cruel
killing**

THE recent violence at local fox hunt is not aprising as fox-hunting is cruel, sadistic, violent and anti-social behaviour.

Surely in this day and age a small wild animal can live its life in the countryside without being torn to pieces by pack of dogs?

These dogs, when they grow too numerous, are also killed. Where is the sense and humanity in fox-hunting?

Human beings will have to learn to co-exist with nature. They will have to learn not to poison and pollute the rivers and ground.

Our existence depends on co-operating with everyone in order to preserve life. The recent chemical disaster on the River Rhine with the killing of fish and dangerous polluted drinking-water should also serve as a warning.

All this was caused by the Swiss in their greed for paper money.

I hope the police

prehend the people responsible for the violence at the fox-hunt and the S.P.C.A., notified of the digging for luxur.

— DISGUSTE

Alien idea

It seems many hunt supporters are unable to accept that there can be numbers of people who are motivated by compassion and a determination to see more respect given to

Perhaps because these ideas are alien to them they have to seek motives in those who oppose them. Once we were accused of being in pay of the Kremlin or some subversive political party — a logical conclusion for people whose lives are governed by financial matters and whose politics come to I suppose.

Now the blinkers are on again. Parker tries desperately to perpetuate the myth that we are all townies and hate country people. He seems to ignore the fact there are increas-

Yes, many of our members do come from towns, but much as Mr. Perkins finds it hard to stomach, there are many country people who make up the group as well.

If Mr. Perkins understood the philosophy he would know that, as hunt members, we don't want or need people running the group from country people.

anywhere. We are organised by pac
tactics and experience on to
members "in the field" and alie
them to make decisions themse
within our strict policy of non-vie

John
28 Rupert
Wood
Glas

23/2/76

Torn to pieces

Torn to pieces

Firstly, to say that foxes killed instantly is ridiculous. Foxes are chased by hounds miles, when caught torn to pieces or when they go to earth a terrier put in and the fox is dug up and bleeding to be callously killed and thrown to the hounds.

It has been proved scientifically that foxes do not threaten sheep. Mr Parker suggests.

The hunters may not be bad and assistants but they ARE selfish, thoughtless people.

I hope this age-old tradition abolished as other so-called sports have, such as dogfighting, cockfighting etc.

E. Park, P.

Violent people

The urge to cause violent death to animals is part of their make-up and this tendency can, when frustrated, readily be directed toward humans.

Spades and riding whips become
offensive weapons. Indeed, whips
ARE offensive weapons, yet the
hunt sets out equipped with them.

Gwendolen Barte
193 Millwood Road
Northdown
Margate
Kent

Naive Parker

YOUR writer, Derek Parker, is either very naive or deliberately closing his eyes to the facts regarding the "anti hunt" lobby.

We are all Conservative Party members and have in our ranks several MPs, serving councillors and branch officers. We also have at least one Conservative Party agent as a member. Our members come from every corner of Britain and include both farmers and farm workers.

The Labour Party do not have the monopoly on "antis", and neither does a Conservative vote guarantee a pro-hunt stance. I urge all Conservative Party "antis" to come out of the closet now. Put your views to your candidates and Central Office. Hunting with hounds is a moral issue and not restricted to one particular political party.

Merion Lanharn (Mrs),
Conservative Anti-Hunt Council,
and Party Branch Chairman,
P.O. Box 193,
Harpenden, Herts. AL5 1AR.

I AM not a hunt saboteur or a great animal lover but have been moved to complain about Parker's Way (P.D.E., March 23).

So Derek Parker's late grandfather was first whipper-in to the Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire Hunt. Now it is clear why almost every other week, fox-hunting gets spoken of so fondly.

foxhunting enthusiasm in the guise of an article about the Renfrewshire countryside of the early 1900s. It would appear that foxhunting was the only real pleasure of that time, although shooting and cricket were mentioned briefly.

Is anyone really interested in the

middle-class pastimes of Mr Parker's relations? What proportion of Express readers can relate to such idle reminiscences of this cruel "sport?"

Let's get back to country matters that most of our ancestors enjoyed.

G. McQ.

Gallowhill,
Paisley.

MAN IS INJURED IN CLASHES ON HUNT

ONE man is still in hospital following the "wild eyes" clashes between local huntmen and protesters.

And police are this morning continuing investigations into the weekend violence.

Anti-hunt activist Ian Milne, from Glasgow, suffered a facial injury during a demonstration at the first meeting of the season of the Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire Hunt Association.

Today, he is still in hospital under the care of facial specialists. And as he undergoes treatment,

a colleague claimed: "He was struck in the face with a stick. It was the worst violence we have seen."

More than 150 protesters demonstrated before the start of Saturday's hunt, with 20 then moving on to the route through Corbally Woods.

It was there that the clashes are said to have happened. Gail Hunt, a hunt spokeswoman, said: "The hunt had chased a fox into the earth, and then they went down to dig it out. Some of our members went down peacefully to protect it."

But, Mr Milne was struck with a stick. It was only luck that it

didn't turn into a real bludgeoning.

Before police arrived, another man, student Paul Maxwell (21), suffered head and wrist injuries and whiplash. It is claimed he was dragged down a hill.

Police say Johnstone, 30, was still investigating the incidents, but that no arrests have been made.

Yesterday, a hunt spokesman, Grant Far, said, "disappointed that a group from Saturday's hunt had been in the area."

He said: "Those who were not with our members. They were individuals and their own dogs. We had nothing to do with it."

Saboteurs claim assault at fox hunt

Strathclyde Police are investigating alleged assaults on two anti-hunting demonstrators after the first hunt of the season by Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire Foxhounds at the weekend.

Clydeside Hunt Saboteurs Association claimed that one of its members, Mr Ian Milne, was struck in the face with a stick after he came upon two "terrier men" trying to take a fox out of its earth.

Another saboteur, Mr John Brown, said last night that Mr Milne (21), a Glasgow master regenerator, had placed himself between the two men and the earth at Corbie Hill Woods, near Houston, in Renfrewshire, when another half dozen terrier men appeared from the wood, one of whom struck Mr Milne in the face.

Mr Milne was reported to be "comfortable" last night after an operation to mend a fractured cheekbone in Fallowley's Royal Alexandra Infirmary.

Mr Brown said there had been a heated scuffle between the terrier men and about 30 saboteurs in which another demonstrator was slightly hurt.

The saboteurs reportedly had appeared in the wood when police arrived.

The hunt master of the Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire Foxhounds, Mr William Hunt, said last night that he had later heard various stories of a scuffle.

Police last night confirmed they were investigating a complaint of assault on two people.

Hooligans who must be stopped

IMAGINE the Scottish cap final at Hampden between Rangers and Celtic in front of an 80,000 crowd.

The game has just reached a critical stage halfway through the first half when, all of a sudden, the pitch is invaded by around 100 thugs intent on stopping the game.

The police would immediately move in to force those offenders apprehended would be severely dealt with in the courts.

What then, I ask, is the difference between football hooligans and the hooligans who masquerade as supporters of the hunt saboteurs' association.

The only difference, it would seem, is in the attitude of the police, who seem unwilling, or unable, to stop these saboteurs.

Where I come from in West Renfrewshire, many people on horseback and on foot, enjoy a Saturday afternoon with the Lanark and Renfrew Hunt, with the added knowledge that they are also helping keep a savage pet under control.

But these saboteurs are creating mayhem on land they have entered against the express wishes of the owners.

Worse still, farmers have had property damaged, silage pits covered with moly, these being trampled over and cows heavy in calf being chased all round the field not only but two examples of vandalism.

Already, some people have taken the law into their own hands. The problem will only escalate unless the police clamp down.

Two hurt at Foxhunts' opening Meet

AT the first meeting of the Renfrewshire & Lanark Hunt at Houston on Saturday, 1st November there were over 60 anti-hunt sports campaigners protesting in what was to have been a "peaceful sabotage".

However, after the second incident Paul Maxwell, 21, of Glasgow, was injured in a scuffle in the Corbally Woods on the route which resulted in neck wounds being sustained in an alleged hunt.

Mr Milne, a 22-year-old Glasgow Engineer, was injured in the Fallowley where they were treated. He was later allowed home.

Local CID officers at

Johnstone report that several people have been interviewed and that their enquiries were still continuing.

Hunt saboteurs act within law

SIR,—I am writing in response to your recent editorial comment ("The S.P." Nov. 22) on the Lanark and Renfrew Hunt and the activities of The Hunt Saboteurs Association.

Firstly, I must contest your notion that the fox is "a savage beast". Scientists and biologists have studied the fox in its natural environment over a number of years and have concluded that the fox will utilise the most readily available source of food which is usually and other small rodents and fruits. The fox does not threaten sheep, nor does it bite through wire fencing to molest chickens. Neither does the fox population need to be controlled by man. Research, again, has shown that the fox is perfectly capable of controlling its own numbers and only breeds to areas which it can easily support them. I challenge you to defend your claims with hard evidence.

As far as your comments about the hunt saboteurs go, I would like to put the following points to you.

(i) Hunt saboteurs act within the law and that it is why the police do not arrest and charge us. I'm sure that the chief constable will be most concerned to hear your claim that we police are unwilling to act.

(ii) The police have to remain unbiased—we have a right to protect and as long as we do so lawfully the police must defend that right for us.

(iii) Your statement about saboteurs crossing land uninvited, damaging property and upsetting "cows heavily in calf" struck a familiar note with me. Many landowners and residents in Renfrewshire protest most strongly at a pack of hounds and about 20 riders crossing their land uninvited, scaring livestock and damaging property. Remember that saboteurs follow the hunt and not vice versa. Who scares the livestock first?

Hunt saboteurs taken to hospital

BY HUGH BARNES.

TWO HUNT saboteurs were taken to hospital at the weekend after an incident involving demonstrators at the first hunt of the season of the Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire Foxhounds.

Mr Ian Milne, 22, a marine engineer, of Gartnavel Road, Glasgow, was last night in Caustonby Hospital, Glasgow, with facial injuries.

The other man, Mr Paul Maxwell, 21, a student, of Terrywood Road, Milton of Campsie, was discharged from the Royal Alexandra Infirmary, Fallowley, after recovering treatment for wrist and whiplash injuries.

In fact, I will go so far as to say that if you change from foxhunting to dog hunting we will be the first dog for you and I promise we will give you a good day's real sport!

Finally, I would like to put the following idea to members of the "L & R" Hunt. Turn it into a dog hunt and you will be left, in peace, to charge around the countryside to your heart's content.

The Hunt Saboteurs Association exists to sabotage fox hunts and not dog hunts.

IAN NOBLE, Clydeside Hunt Saboteurs Assoc.

The "Clyde Hunt Saboteurs Association" alleged last night that after a demonstration at the hunt in Houston, Renfrewshire, on Saturday, the protesters returned between the post and the fox, which had been chased to earth.

The association alleged that various species broke out involving terrier men. Two of the saboteurs were injured.

Mr Grant Farren, secretary of the Foxhounds, denied that the terrier men were associated with the hunt. "They were people, their own dogs to dog times."

A police spokesman said last night that he was investigating the incident.

This month, the L & R hunt stopped advertising any of their meets. They obviously did not appreciate being outnumbered by Saboteurs every Saturday, or the increasingly regular Tuesday attentions of the 'antis'. On 6th December, Saboteurs acting upon 'reliable information' sent two cars to locate the hunt, leaving the main group at a central point, in case the information proved incorrect. The hunt was indeed at Belltrees Farm, confirming our information, and were at first very complacent seeing only 10 Saboteurs. Within thirty minutes another 60 Saboteurs arrived and a very shocked hunt simply galloped with hounds the mile or so to Bowfield Country Club, boxing hounds by 1.00pm - the shortest 'hunt' of the season.

Due to the severe weather hunting was cancelled for the next three weeks until 26th December when the L & R hold their traditional Boxing Day meet at Corsliehill, near Houston. Forty Saboteurs were delighted to see that the hunt and their supporters were reduced by some 50% compared with their corresponding meet for 1985. Again, NO KILLS and 1986 ended with the hunt meeting on 30th December at Meikle Cloak, from where they proceeded to hunt quite deliberately through Muirshiel Country Park. Saboteurs took photographs before taking the whole pack away from their huntsman, who spent the rest of the day trying to locate his hounds. Our evidence was subsequently shown to Council officials who assure us that the issue of hunting on Regional Council land will be investigated and dealt with as soon as possible.



Renfrewshire & Lanark Hunt

On New Years Day, due to weather conditions and lack of transport, only one car load of Saboteurs were able to engage the hunt. As it happened, this proved ample allies for the fox and the meet at Gateside began 1987 as we had finished 1986 - NO KILLS and a resounding triumph for the small but committed number of Saboteurs who were able to make it to Gateside.

SEVERAL meets were held over the Holiday period with Boxing Day traditionally the best attended. Nowadays, the hunts are reluctant to publicise their venues because of the possibility of trouble and demonstrations from Anti Hunt Factions. Opponents of the hunt argue that fox hunting and indeed all blood sports are cruel and unnecessary. Landowners, huntsmen and farms, on the other hand say that foxes are a nuisance and need to be kept under check. Last year, out of approximately 40 meets, the total number of foxes local Hunt was only in the period since the last time the number was actually caught by the seven and this season, beginning of November - Nil!!



Hounds waiting patiently on Ne'erday morning outside a local tavern while members of Renfrewshire & Lanark Hunt had the traditional dram.

The following article from a local newspaper summed up the L & R's season so far. JANUARY - Once again snow and severe frost resulted in most of this months hunts being cancelled. Clydeside HSA next encountered the L & R hunt at Commore, near

Nine are arrested at local fox hunt

HUNT saboteurs had a field day by rescuing a trapped fox. But according to police their act of protection ended with nine people being arrested.

A team of protesters brought havoc to the Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire Hunt which set off near to Commore Farm, Neilston, at the weekend.

But as the army of horses and dogs reached Keeper's Lodge Road the pursued fox took shelter in an underground pipe.

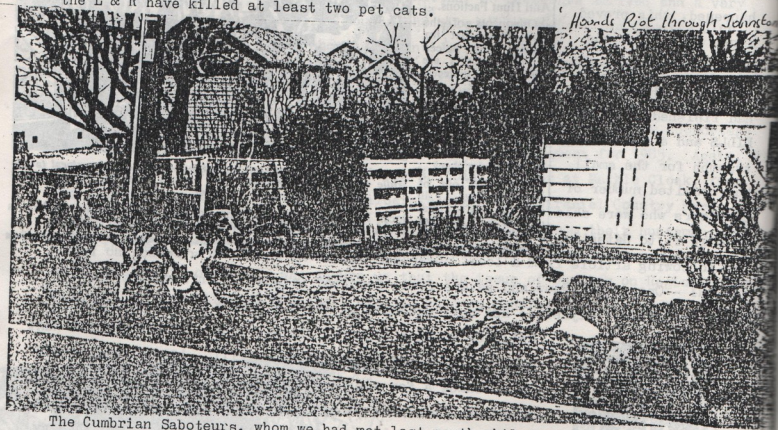
Seemingly, words became heated between sides when the protesters kept huntsmen and their dogs at bay.

Later a police spokesman said nine people were arrested... and they will appear in court at a later date.

And the cunning fox... it escaped unscathed.

Neilston on 24th January. It was soon very obvious the hunt were getting very desperate for a kill. After a relatively short chase a fox was forced to seek refuge in a drain, hounds and huntsman closing in what the hunt hoped would be a dramatic, if prolonged finish. 'Dig her out' was the cry of the redcoats as their grovelling minions with the spades arrived. The terriermen moved in to dislodge and kill their quarry. Saboteurs would not leave the fox to lie: guarding this fox by sitting over the drain entrance, refusing to leave when the Police arrived. Nine activists were charged with 'Breach of the Peace' for simply refusing to leave the fox to its fate; Carol arrested for the first time in her life, explains 'I was totally disgusted and amazed at all these people (the hunt) standing about waiting for the fox to be killed, to be murdered just for 'sport' - they were enjoying the situation: what pleasure can people get out of such suffering? I was going to get arrested - THIS was worth getting arrested for, and I'll do it again to try and save the life of any persecuted animal or person.' Carol and Clydeside HSA proved true to their non-violent but direct principle - they accepted arrest but SAVED THE FOX.

FEBRUARY - During February, out of possible eight hunts, Saboteurs attended six. This was the first season that Clydeside HSA had proved capable of sabotaging both Tuesday and Saturday hunts on a regular basis. On 7th February, we were joined by comrades from the newly formed Cumbrian HSA. Midway through the day, hounds were pulled away from a fox which had fled through a Johnstone Housing Estate, its tormentors in hot pursuit. Had Saboteurs not been present, not only may this fox have died, but local pets may also have fallen victim to the jaws of the hounds. All the L & R have killed at least two pet cats.



The Cumbrian Saboteurs, whom we had met last month whilst participating in a Border T.V. debate about foxhunting, returned from their first action in Scotland to organise the first locally initiated sabotage of the Coniston Foxhunt. A group of Clydeside Saboteurs travelled to Cumbria on 21st February to engage in a well organised day of action against the Coniston hunt, resulting in a 'blank' day for this fell pack - NO KILLS.

Back home in Renfrewshire, an unusual and very satisfying incident highlighted the last February meet, when the hunt, leaving from the Gryffe Hotel, Bridge of Weir, lost a fox after successful intervention by Saboteurs between here and Kilmacolm: whilst a couple of Saboteurs were confronted by an unpleasant group of terriermen who tried to debate the pros and cons of fox control, the fox itself ran directly behind the terriermen and escaped as the latter struggled to put together a coherent argument! The fox obviously decided s/he did not require to be controlled!! During this exchange when their quarry escaped unnoticed, the terriermen boasted that, 'We (the hunt) have got four (foxes) so far.' Assuming this claim to be correct, which it may not be, this was even fewer than last season when the hunt claimed seven. It also served to redouble our group's resolve to ensure no more foxes died at the hands of the hunt for the rest of the season.

MARCH - There were four hunt meets scheduled for the remainder of the L & R's season, 3rd, 7th, 10th and 14th of March. Clydeside HSA made sure that all were attended.

determined organisation meant that all the final six hunts were successfully sabotaged by the HSA (given our attentions on 24th and 28th February) The hunt of 7th March was cancelled due to heavy snow, therefore Saboteurs, once again accompanied by our friends from the fells of Cumbria, raced across the Central belt of Scotland in time to support the Edinburgh Saboteurs, who were ensuring the Linlithgow and Stirling shire Foxhunt failed to kill on their final meet of the season near Balerno.

Saturday 14th March brought us to the L & R's last hunt of the season at West Glen Farm near Kilmalcolm. NO FOXES HAD BEEN KILLED BY THE L & R WHENEVER SABOTEURS WERE THERE THROUGHOUT THE SEASON. The stage was therefore set for a very tense encounter with the hunt: Saboteurs determined no fox would die; hunt officials determined to satisfy their bloodlust on this, their final meet.

Hounds entered the first wood and apparently picked up a strong 'scent': just where a Saboteur had laid a false trail (using fox bedding from an Edinburgh contact). This tactic worked well for a full forty minutes until the huntsman realised he was being taken for a ride in more than on sense! Hounds were gathered after 'rioting' after a Roe Deer which fortunately escaped, were eventually taken to another wood further from the meet.

For Louise, this was her first season as a Hunt Saboteur and she too was desperately keen to ensure it did not end with a kill. The following is an account of the subsequent event; a personal and emotive account for which the writers make no apology:

'Pretty soon it became evident that something was going on in the wood. Myself and a handful of Saboteurs climbed over the dividing fence and past the field (the term field is given to mounted followers of the hunt) who were still waiting around. They hadn't done anything else all day. As we drew nearer to the fence surrounding the wood, I could hear the dogs in 'full cry'. I began to feel sick and began and started shaking with fear. I clutched my friend's hand. I told her I was frightened and didn't know what to do. She just kept telling me it would be alright and we climbed the fence and entered the wood. Standing all around were hunt officials who started obstructing us and giving verbal abuse. I was terrified, I thought a redcoat was going to hit my friend. We were clutching onto each other; they were making fun of us because of this. Gerry, another Saboteur who was in front of us, arrived at the fox earth. The dogs were scrabbling and barking at the earth. Gerry jumped down into the earth and started pulling out the hounds. I really started to panic, I could feel my fear and anger all rising up inside me. When I looked around all I could see were terriermen, their dogs and other hunters. They didn't care; they were laughing and smiling. The next thing I realised I had started to cry; I felt so helpless: there was a fox down there with hounds and hunt waiting for the kill, the huntmen was calling, 'Dig him out boys', suddenly I lost control and started to scream for people to help us. Now other Saboteurs had reached the scene and some went to the help of Gerry. The rest of us sat down in the earth to keep the hounds and terriermen out. Someone was trying to calm me down. Hunt officials were laughing at me, but soon stopped as more and more Saboteurs piled into the earth. I cried out for more people to join us - suddenly there were over THIRTY determined Saboteurs in and around the fox's refuge. WE had taken control and/

were defending OUR fox. The Police, called by a now frustrated hunt came into the wood and asked us to leave. Everyone appreciated the possible consequences but assured the Police, who by now had the landowners representative with them, that we were not moving. The atmosphere between the Saboteurs was fantastic, everyone was so positive. The Police, realising our determination, then spoke to the hunt officials saying that WE were not going to move and therefore they (the hunt) would have to! The hunt were really angry about this, but the Police stressed the fact that there were just too many Saboteurs to make effective arrests and they therefore had no alternative but to ask everyone to leave. With no alternative, the hunt in a very angry mood, reluctantly left - WE'D WON!

Louise's words and feelings clearly need no explanation - a very dejected hunt moved away, half heartedly casting their hounds into a wood near Houston where another Saboteur group took the pack away from their huntsman using effective horn calls almost immediately. Ironically some stray hounds did manage to 'put up' a fox with the huntsman no where near. Only one hunt supporter saw the fox, but as he hurried off to find a redcoat (hollering was useless as hunt officials would assume it was Saboteurs calling to mislead them!) Saboteurs called hounds off allowing this fox to escape easily. Saboteurs action at the would-be dig out lasted a full hour and it was now just after 2.00pm. By 2.30pm, the hunt conceded defeat, gathering hounds (having lost many), and returning via the road with a Police escort to the Houston Kennels CLYDESDALE HSA HAD WON THE DAY AND THE SEASON.



A statistical analysis of 1986-87 foxhunting season in Renfrewshire.

Possible L & R hunts	39	
Cancelled	13	(HSA claim at least one of these was due to our unexpected arrival at the meet)
Actual L & R hunting days	26	
Hunts attended by HSA	23	(of which 4 were cancelled when HSA arrived - 3 genuinely to bad weather, one, as above)
Hunts effectively sabbed	19	
Number of foxes 'claimed'	4	(As stated these are only claims and not witnessed kills)
Hunts not sabotaged	7	
Number of foxes killed whilst Saboteurs were Present	0	

CONCLUSION - We see then that the L & R foxhunt enjoyed only seven days hunting which were free from the attentions of Hunt Saboteurs. Assuming the hunt claims to be correct, then, only four foxes were killed in the name of 'sport' throughout the season. To the best of our knowledge, this is the most unsuccessful season the L & R have ever had and obviously belies their claim that the hunt is a significant controlling factor of the fox - were the reader to assume (wrongly we believe) that any fox control was in fact necessary.

From an alternative viewpoint however, we often hear it said that the L & R are a poor 'non-killing' hunt. This opinion, we suggest is incorrect and, in support of our argument, ask the reader to consider that, firstly, if it were not for our direct intervention at digouts, the total number of kills would have been at least DOUBLED (Saboteurs intervened at a minimum of four digouts and, remember, there are often more than one fox in any refuge); secondly, the hunt claim four kills, FOUR TOO MANY and an average of one every second hunt while Saboteurs were not around. Consider, then, the outcome if Clydeside HSA had not been around for the majority of the hunts.

Bloodsports abolition is our aim BUT until an acceptable Law reaches the Statute Book there is only one way to combat foxhunting - BY DIRECTLY ENGAGING EACH HUNT EVERY TIME THEY TRY TO KILL. This was Clydeside Hunt Saboteurs most successful season ever: YOU/

CAN FIGURE THAT OUR GROUP GROWS FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH UNTIL FOXHUNTING IS REINVENTED - SHINE IS MADE COMPLETELY UNPRACTICAL. Then, the Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire Foxhunt will have a choice - to either cease to exist - Most people do not want them anyway - or change to a 'draghunt' (following a false trail where no animal dies). If you wish to join and/or support Clydeside Hunt Saboteurs, please contact us at Clydeside Hunt Saboteurs, P O Box 307, Glasgow.

This report was compiled by Clydeside HSA.

Lanarkshire and Renfrewshire Fox Hounds

WILL MEET AT 11.30 a.m.

NOVEMBER, 1986

Sat. 1	Houston House Opening Meet 11 a.m.	*Mr. G. Forrest
Tue. 4	Moniabrock	
Sat. 8	Mid Gavin	*Mrs. R. Campbell
Tue. 11	St. Brydes	
Sat. 15	Bird in Hand	*Mr. N. Oliver
Tue. 18	Gryffe Arms	
Sat. 22	Lugton Inn	*Mr. J. Love
Tue. 25	West Kilbride	
Sat. 29	Gateside	*Mrs. A. Muirhead

XXXXXXXXXX

*Gate Shutter

FORTHCOMING EVENTS

NOVEMBER, 1986

Sat. 1	Tally Ho Ball — Johnstone Town Hall
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Terrier Men

The thugs with spades and terriers are a part of every Hunt. Not for them, riding across country or following on foot. They follow the Hunt in Landrovers eagerly awaiting a call from the Huntsman when the exhausted fox finds an 'untopped' refuge. The terrier men then put their dogs down the earth in an attempt to 'bolt' the fox and force it to run again for its life. If the fox refuses to bolt perhaps because it is physically incapable or is defending its cubs, then the terriers keep it under attack, allowing the terrier men to dig down to it. When the fox is exposed it may be shot, or thrown alive to the waiting hounds or put into a sack and taken some distance away to be released for further hunting. Our investigators have witnessed all three practices and full admissions that such things occur have been made by leading huntsmen. Another nasty little trick employed by these people, is the cutting of the captured fox's feet before it is released for the hounds to chase.

Trailing its own blood the fox has no chance of escape. Huntsmen of course deny the existence of such practices as 'tagging foxes' but the evidence of disgusted fox hunters and our own filmed evidence renders the facts indisputable.

There is no doubt that these brutal terrier men are not content with torturing foxes. Many use their dogs for the illegal 'sport' of badger digging and baiting.

The offences which reach the courts are only the tip of the iceberg. We know that some (old school) fox hunters are privately appalled at the cruelty of terrier men. Occasionally, some are even prepared to reveal their fears publicly, famous Hunting enthusiast J.N.P. Watson, wrote in 'The Field' in October 1982:-

"Clearly the burgeoning of the (supporters) clubs has produced a considerable growth in the 'Terrier-and-spade brigade'... It seems to me a great shame that now, when fox-hunting has so many enemies and we are endeavouring to present an image of fair play and humanness, that there is greater callousness than ever before."

*To hunt solo
from
91 friend
the fox*